

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-04 H-01 AID-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 IO-03

DPW-01 RSR-01 DODE-00 /075 W
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R 221140Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6296

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15189

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, AUGUST 22

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG ON AUG 22 ACTION EMBASSY
SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NIP TRAFB REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0785

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, AUGUST 22

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL
IN MR 2 OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 39 INCI-
DENTS REPORTED, AND THESE WERE CONCENTRATED IN BINH DINH AND
KONTUM. MOST OF THE INCIDENTS WERE LISTED AS ENEMY-INITIATED
ATTACKS BY FIRE, TO WHICH THE RVNAF RESPONDED. THERE WERE TWO
RAILROAD MININGS, IN PHU YEN AND BINH THUAN. CASUALTY AGGREGATES
INCREASED, PARTICULARLY ON THE ENEMY SIDE: VC/NVA: 147 KIA, 3
CAPTURED; RVNAF: 27 KIA, 44 WIA. THE NUMBER OF AIR STRIKES--
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34 ON AUG 20 AND 46 ON AUG 21 -- REMAINED SUBSTANTIAL AND CON-

CENTRATED IN BINH DINH (56) AND KONTUM (20).

2. JUDGING FROM THE GREATER THAN USUAL NUMBER OF GROUND ATTACKS, THE ENEMY HAS INCREASED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN KONTUM AND BINH DINH. THREE ENEMY ATTACKS IN KONTUM --AT ZA 140.879, ZA 130.782 AND ZA 148.914--WERE REPULSED BY RVNAF UNITS WHO TOOK 17 KIA AND 23 WIA WHILE KILLING A TOTAL 122 OF THE ENEMY. CAPTURED EQUIPMENT (9 INDIVIDUAL AND 18 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS, INCLUDING A 12.77 AA) TENDS TO SUPPORT THESE CLAIMS, AND THE POLOFF AT KONTUMS REPORTS THAT STATISTICS OF THE LARGEST INCIDENT, IN WHICH 89 ENEMY WERE CLAIMED DEAD, WERE BASED ON ACTUAL BODY COUNT. IN BINH DINH, WE BELIEVE THE INCREASED ENEMY ACTIVITY IS LARGELY IN RESPONSE TO CONTINUED RVNAF ATTEMPTS TO SECURE MORE CONTESTED GROUND ALONG HIGHWAY 1, PARTICULARLY IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT. THE CHIEF OF AN NHON DISTRICT TOLD THE QUI NHON POLOFF THAT, AFTER THE SENATE ELECTIONS WERE OVER, HE WOULD BEGIN SECURING EASTERN AN NHON, WHERE THE COMMUNIST FORCES ARE REPORTED TO BE WEAK. SUCH ACTION WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN A STILL HIGHER LEVEL OF HOSTILITIES.

3. THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING IN BINH DINH IS NOT ALWAYS REFLECTED IN THE NHA TRANG TOC BRIEFING. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SECTOR TOC LOG FOR AUGUST 18, FORWARDED BY POLOFF AT QUI NHON, LISTS A TOTAL OF 24 INCIDENTS, OF WHICH ONLY 10 WERE REPORTED AT NHA TRANG.

4. YESTERDAY I CALLED ON GENERAL CAM, COMMANDER OF THE ARVN 23RD DIVISION IN KONTUM. HE SAID THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE ENEMY 95B REGOLYPE RECENTLY MADE RADIO CONTACT WITH THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 44TH REGT AND INDICATED A DESIRE FOR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS. CAM SENT WORD THAT TALKS COULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE ENEMY RETIRED TO THE WEST BAK OF THE POKO RIVER.

5. THE PROV REP IN PLEIKU REPORTS A SHORTAGE OF FOOD IN THE HIGHLANDS THIS SEASON. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE PROVINCE REDUCED LAST YEAR'S RICE HARVEST, AD THE POOR WEATHER AND NATIONAL RICE SHORTAGE PROMISE TO KEEP THIS YEAR'S SUPPLY LOW. THE INCREASED ENEMY TROOP PRESENCE IN THE PROVINCE HAS CREATED A FURTHER DRAIN ON SUPPLIES, FOR THOUGH THEY RAISE SOME RICE OF THEIR OWN, THEY ARE GRIPPED
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BY SAME SHORTAGE AND TRY TO COMPENSATE BY BUYING IN MARKETS OSTENSIBLY UNDER GVN CONTROL. THE NATIONAL POLICE BEGAN A STRICTER RESOURCE DENIAL PROGRAM EARLIER THIS MONTH IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT ENEMY ACCESS TO FRIENDLY STOCKS.

6. PLEIKU ALSO REPORTS THAT COMMUNISTS HAVE TOLD WOOD-CUTTERS THAT THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS WILL BE CONFISCATED AND THEY WILL BE DENIED USE OF THE ROADS TO GET TO THE

POLLS. DISRUPTION OF ELECTION ACTIVITIES WILL REPORTEDLY
BEGIN AUGUST 25. (SEE NHA TRANG 0775 FOR REPORTED ENEMY
PLANS TO DISRUPT THE ELECTION IN TUYEN DUC.)

7. THE NEW DIRECTOR OF TELEVISION SERVICES IN NHA TRANG,
MR PHAM HUY HAP, CALLED ON ME YESTERDAY AND SAID NHA TRANG
WOULD SOON BE BLESSED WITH TV. THE STATION, LOCATED AT THE
OLD CAMP MCDERMOTT SITE, WILL BEGIN BROADCASTING SEPT 8, AND
WILL ORIGINATE ITS OWN TRANSMISSIONS AS WELL AS TAPED NATIONAL
PROGRAMS FROM SAIGON. (PRESIDENT THIEU HAD PROMISED DURING
VISIT TO NHA TRANG JUNE 29 THAT CITY WOULD HAVE TV BY SEPT.
COOK
MARTIN

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NNN

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